



State of Utah
GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
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Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor
PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATING OFFICE

KATHLEEN CLARKE
Director

**H.B.229 (2019) Annual Report to the NRAE Interim
Committee and Federalism Commission**
Required by U.C.A 63J-4-608
August 31, 2020

Overview

As stipulated in [63J U.C.A § 608 \(2\)](#), this report provides an overview of the activities of PLPCO related to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP); the R&PP applications submitted by government entities in the state over the past year; and any decisions made on R&PP applications in the past year.

PLPCO R&PP Activities

63J U.C.A § 608 (1) requires PLPCO to develop expertise concerning R&PP application process; work to educate government entities concerning land available for R&PP disposal and the R&PP application process; advise and consult with government entities that request R&PP related assistance from PLPCO, maintain an inventory of R&PP applications; report on PLPCO's R&PP related activities annually; and establish an advisory committee to make R&PP related recommendations to PLPCO. In an effort to fulfil those requirements, PLPCO has undertaken the following actions since last August.

Developing R&PP Expertise

- PLPCO Staff met with the BLM State Office, several BLM field offices, and various county officials with R&PP expertise
- Attended monthly meetings with the Salt Lake BLM Field Office and the City of Payson to become familiar with the pre-application phase of an R&PP project
- Conducted in depth research concerning the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, Utah's historical and current usage of the act, and how the act has been used in other states
- Identified existing studies providing information on lands designated as eligible for disposal under R&PP
- The Lands and Reality Specialist at the BLM State Office provided training to PLPCO staff on how to use the BLM's LR2000 database to track the status of all R&PP applications in the state

R&PP Education Efforts

- Building on the R&PP related education and outreach efforts conducted earlier in 2019, PLPCO staff attended the Utah Association of Counties annual conference and made a brief presentation on PLPCO's ability to assist with R&PP efforts and passed out handouts overviews R&PP and offering PLPCO's assistance
- Passed out informational handouts regarding R&PP and PLPCO's R&PP related assistance at the 2019 Outdoor Recreation Summit
- Brief remarks about PLPCO's R&PP related role at Sportsmen Caucus Breakfast during the 2020 legislative session
- In addition to the letter explaining PLPCO's R&PP related role and potential for assistance, which was emailed to all county commissioners and councilmembers in May of 2019, PLPCO staff emailed the same letter to all relevant county staff in August of 2019
- PLPCO Director Kathleen Clarke participated in a round table discussion regarding Utah's use of R&PP at the Western Caucus Foundation Meeting in October of 2019

R&PP Related Assistance

- PLPCO staff conducted R&PP related research in the response to requests from the Davis County Planner, the Mayor of Ivins, and Senators Romney and Lee's offices

R&PP Related Reports

- PLPCO staff provided a report regarding PLPCO's R&PP related efforts at a NRAE Interim Committee meeting on August 21, 2019
- PLPCO submitted the annual report required by 63J U.C.A § 608 (2) to the NRAE Interim Committee

and the Federalism Commission via email on August 29, 2019

- PLPCO submitted a report to the office of the Legislative Research and General Council in May of 2020 regarding the R&PP Advisory Committee
- PLPCO provided a virtual report to NRAE Interim Committee on August 18, 2020, regarding the R&PP Advisory Committee and PLPCO's sunset recommendation

R&PP Advisory Committee

- Established the R&PP advisory committee consisting of designees from the seven governmental entities/organizations outlined in 63J U.C.A § 608 (3)
- PLPCO staff organized the first R&PP Advisory Committee meeting on August 19, 2019 and coordinated the four subsequent meetings of the R&PP advisory committee, which took place on September 20, 2019, December 3, 2019, February 20, 2020, and August 17, 2020

Overview of R&PP Applications in Utah from January 2019 to August 2020

Name of Govt. Entity	Date of Application	Project Overview and Status Update
City of Santa Clara	09/15/2016	The City of Santa Clara submitted an R&PP application to lease 52.146 acres of land on 09/15/2016. The application was successful and the BLM issued a 5-year R&PP lease on 01/28/2020.
Iron County	02/11/2019	Iron county was issued a patent for 155.000 acres of land on 02/13/2020 to create the Three Parks County Park.
Tooele County	03/16/2019	Tooele County submitted an R&PP application for 191.100 acres for a Tooele County campground. The status of the application is still pending.
Garfield County	08/24/2019	Garfield County submitted an R&PP application to patent 1,600.000 acres of land for an OHV area. The application is still pending as of 08/27/2020.
City of St. George	11/25/2019	The City of St George submitted an R&PP application to patent 7.194 acres of land as a partial transfer from Washington County School district. The most recent action to this case occurred on 01/10/2020.
City of Hilldale	12/10/2019	The city of Hilldale submitted an R&PP application to renew a 70.000 acre lease on 12/10/2019. The lease was successfully renewed on March 16, 2020.
City of Parowan	04/06/2020	The City of Parowan submitted an R&PP application to lease 190.000 acres of land to create evaporation ponds from the Parowan City sewer lagoons. The status of the application is still pending as of 08/27/2020.
City of Payson	05/25/2020	The City of Payson submitted an R&PP application to patent 1,020.000 acres of land to purchase a portion of West Mountain. Additional information was requested from the BLM on 07/25/2020.
City of Toquerville	04/14/2020	The city of Toquerville submitted an R&PP application to lease 1.000 acre to be used as a sports and recreation park near Toquerville reservoir. The status of the application is still pending as of 08/27/2020.
City of Saratoga Springs	04/21/2020	The City of Saratoga Springs submitted an R&PP application to lease 80.00 acres of land. The status of the application is still pending as of 08/27/2020.